Improved regional trade relations

3564. SHRI E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether diplomacy in oil and gas sector with Pakistan, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Bangladesh has developed better regional trade relations; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to strengthen the relationship as regional multilateral trade relation and affirmed as regional organization trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Bilateral trade between India and Iraq

3565. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the installation of a democratic Government in Iraq, the prospects of bilateral trade between India and Iraq have brightened;

(b) if so, whether India has sought MFN status from Iraq;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) As per information available, the process Of installation of the new democratic Government in Iraq has not been completed yet.

(b) to (d) only after the process of installation of the new Government in Iraq is completed, further matters of bilateral relations, including MFN status, could be discussed.

Target for exports

†3566. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a target of export worth 92 billion dollars has been fixed for the year 2005-2006;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the agricultural products will play a major role in this export;

(c) if so, the Government's reaction in this regard;

(d) whether Government are aware of the fact that the rate of increase in agriculture production has reduced to 1.5 per cent from almost 4 per cent; and

(e) if so, the assessment of the likely effect on the domestic consumption on account of increasing the export in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the past few years agriculture and allied products have accounted for a share of 12-13 per cent in total exports.

(d) and (e) According to the advanced estimates of CSO for the year 2004-05 agriculture and allied sector is expected to grow by 1.1 per cent compared with 9.6 per cent in the previous year. Export of commodities including agricultural commodities is dependent on a host of actors which include domestic availability, domestic prices, international prices, etc. Hence there may not be any adverse impact of exprots on domestic consumption.

Exports target

† 3567. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of targets fixed for export of various items and services during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have successfully achieved the prescribed targets of the said period;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the targets fixed for exports during the year 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) Merchandise export targets for the last three years *i.e.* 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 were fixed at 12%, 12% and 16% respectively. No targets were fixed for service

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.